

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOREST HEALTH ASSESSMENT
GREENBELT FOREST PRESERVE
CONTRACT NO. 2015– 01

The City of Greenbelt is seeking proposals from qualified individuals and/or firms to conduct a Forest Health Assessment of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, and to prepare a report with findings and recommendations for management activities.

BACKGROUND

Greenbelt, Maryland is one of three “green” towns planned and constructed under the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The plan for Greenbelt incorporated visionary planning concepts from around the world, resulting in a community that demonstrates excellence in design, as well as reflecting progressive cultural and social themes.

One of the major design elements of the three green towns¹ is the green belt of forest that surrounds the towns. Parts of the original Greenbelt green belt remain in the wooded areas south of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, west in the Greenbelt Park, and north and east in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Goddard Space Flight Center.

Since 1953, sale of the undeveloped areas of Greenbelt from the federal government to private developers began a trend of suburban residential growth in areas that were part of the green belt. Over time, as development pressure threatened the privately owned remaining lands of the green belt, the Greenbelt City Council initiated acquisition of the privately owned green belt. Over 200 acres of private land was acquired through purchase, donation and transfer, giving the City of Greenbelt control over the most intact remaining area of the green belt.

In order to provide for the permanent protection of the green belt as a forested, undisturbed area, the Greenbelt City Council created the Forest Preserve program. In 2003, the areas of the green belt acquired by the city were designated as part of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. These areas are referenced as the North Preserve and the South Preserve

¹ The other green towns are Greenhills, Ohio and Greendale, Wisconsin. A fourth green town, Greenbrook, New Jersey, was never built.

The purpose of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve is "... to protect, manage, and administer ...designated areas for the present and future use and enjoyment of the citizens of Greenbelt by protecting them from the impacts of a growing population, expanding growth, and growing mechanization, thus preserving these lands as an enduring natural resource". Guidelines for the management and maintenance of the forest preserve were adopted in 2007. The City Council also appointed the Forest Preserve Advisory Board to advise the council on matters impacting the forest preserve.

The philosophy and purpose of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve program is critical to any forest health assessment to be prepared pursuant to this RFP. Respondents are directed to Chapter 12 of the Greenbelt City Code, and the Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines for context in the preparation of a proposal for services. (Insert hyperlinks)

LOCATION and DESCRIPTION

The north and south preserves shall be referenced as the "Study Area".

The North Preserve is that area held in ownership by the City of Greenbelt and located north of Northway, west of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, south of the corporate city limits, and east of Ridge Road, comprised of legal parcels described as Map 27, Grid A2, Parcel 10, consisting of 102.5869 acres; Map 27, Grid B2, Parcel 17, consisting of 13.90 acres; Map 27, Grid A1, Parcel 19, consisting of 24.3363 acres; Map 27, Grid B3, Parcel 20, consisting of 4.079 acres; and Map 27, Grid A3, Parcel 12, consisting of 10.6427 acres; shown as Area A on Attachment 1.

The South Preserve is that area held in ownership by the City of Greenbelt and located south of Northway, west of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and east of Ridge Road, comprised of legal parcels described as Map 27, Grid A3, Parcel 6, consisting of 20.4667 acres; Map 27, Grid A3, Parcel 7, consisting of 17.1919 acres; Map 27, Grid A3, Parcel 8, consisting of 11.8707 acres; Map 27, Grid A4, Parcel 9, consisting of 11.8707 acres; Map 27, Grid A4, Parcel 11, consisting of 9.34 acres; and Map 27, Grid A4, Parcel 21, consisting of 10.1552 acres; shown as Areas B, C, D and E on Attachment 1.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected consultant(s) will conduct a comprehensive forest health and ecosystem assessment of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, North and South preserves.

The scope of the study will include the following elements:

- I. Forest composition and health– Assessment of forest and ecosystem health and quality, to include: (structure, plant communities, rare plants, overall species composition, and invasive species)

- a. Forest composition and successional stage
 - i. Categorization of ecological systems or plant community associations using hierarchical system such as the National Vegetation Classification System or Nature Serve's Ecological Classification Units.
 - b. Forest areas damaged/disturbed by biotic factors
 - i. Survey of non-native vegetation, including description of location and areas, and descriptions of vegetation and relative threat to forest health
 - ii. Total acres (by cause and community type) of forest affected by damaging agents
- II. Wildlife inventory, dynamics and habitat –Analysis of terrestrial and aquatic species communities' interrelationships with each other and their habitats and how those interrelationships have been affected by human disturbance.
 - a. Inventory and description of forest dependent animal species, including species of conservation need
 - b. Inventory and description of aquatic animal species, including species of conservation need
 - c. Listing of primary wildlife habitat types (based on plant community analysis in I.a., above) used by each animal species found in the inventory
- III. Abiotic factors impacting forest health – To include:
 - a. Number and location of sites where deposited waste is a problem
 - b. Fire rating
 - c. Number and location of identified hazardous and environmental problem sites
 - d. Number and location of sites exhibiting forest health problems that can be attributed to adjacent land use and activities (runoff, erosion, groundwater contamination)
 - e. Number and location of sites with significant ongoing soil erosion and compaction
 - f. Number and location of sites contributing to degradation of water quality
 - g. Condition of streams, stream banks and buffers
 - h. Soils survey
- IV. Impact of adjacent land use and development on forest health
- V. Findings and conclusions of survey
- VI. Proposed goals for future health of forest preserve
- VII. Recommendations per IV and V

VIII. Recommended revisions to forest preserve article (city code chapter 12) and Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines

IX. Final report

OUTLINE OF SERVICES

- I. Meet with project staff to review project scope and schedule
- II. Review relevant documentation, guidelines, codes, studies, etc..., including the 2014 Department of Natural Resources survey
- III. Conduct historic analysis of the study area
- IV. Outline of planned studies
- V. Review of City Code chapter 12 and Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines
- VI. Briefing of project staff of preliminary findings of study
- VII. Briefing of project staff on preliminary recommendations of study
- VIII. Preliminary final report and recommendations
- IX. Maps, plans, photographs and other graphic detail as required
- X. Final Draft Plan
- XI. Final Adopted Plan

Services shall also include up to three (3) meetings with Greenbelt City Council; two (2) meetings with advisory board(s); unlimited meetings with project staff.

DELIVERABLES

- I. Final approved plan (3 printed copies)
- II. Final approved plan – electronic copy
- III. Maps, plans, photographs and other graphic exhibits as may be included or referenced in the study (3 printed copies and electronic copy)
- IV. Consultation Services for Planning and Implementation of strategies
 - a. Meet with City Council, City Staff, FPAB and community to assist in developing a short term (e.g. 1-5 years) and long term (e.g. 10 – 15 years) plan for any strategies recommended.
- V. Education & Training
 - a. Recommend options for community education and training in the implementation (as appropriate) for forest preserve management strategies and practices.

QUALIFICATIONS

The respondent or respondent team shall contain individuals with appropriate and adequate background and experience to undertake the required services and deliver the required studies, reports, goals and recommendations.

CONTENT OF RESPONSE

The respondent shall submit three (3) copies of the response. The response shall include the following, at a minimum:

- I. Proposed scope of services
- II. Names of project team/firms (please indicate principal contact)
- III. Resumes of project team
- IV. Qualification statement of project firm(s)
- V. List of relevant, former projects of similar scope
- VI. List of references
- VII. Proposed schedule – include phasing if recommended
- VIII. Proposed fees for services

SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR

The contractor will be evaluate in terms of:

- I. Professional qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of required services;
- II. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required;
- III. Capacity to accomplish the work in the required time;
- IV. Past performance on contracts in terms of cost, quality of work, and compliance with performance schedules;
- V. Location in the general geographical area of the project and knowledge of the locality of the project;
- VI. Demonstrated competence in the areas off forest health assessment, ecosystem assessment, and knowledge of applicable management practices.

Proposals shall be evaluated based on relevant experience, project staffing, proximity to the site, understand of the project, and proposed cost.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Proposals shall be delivered by 4 p.m. on June 12, 2015 to the following:

City of Greenbelt
15 Crescent Road, Suite 200
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Attn.: Celia Craze

